

residues of preservative wax or methyl bromide fumes which are so often present on shop stored apples. In spite of this lack of such "protective cover" they mostly also keep very well indeed!

I do feel that the slant of many gardening articles is on the whole inimical to the well-being of our butterflies, not to mention other insects, and it is perhaps time (all praise to Clive Farrell's *Butterfly News* in this respect) that some counter-propaganda is mounted and it would be helpful if, when entomologists see such adverse comments against butterflies in their local press, they were to write a confutation to the editor. In the end, if enough of us did this, the message might get through.

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NOLA CONFUSALIS (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER) (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE), THE LEAST BLACK ARCHES, IN ESSEX— It would seem possibly worth placing on record my recent discovery of a colony of *Nola confusalis* (H.-S.) in Wall Wood, North Essex, one of the satellite woodlands forming a part of the Hatfield Forest complex and owned by the National Trust. On the evening of 11th May 1988, around half a dozen fairly fresh specimens were attracted to one of the three lights I was running there in the company of members of the Bishop's Stortford Natural History Society. Regrettably, all were of the typical form, and so Epping Forest — a mere nineteen kilometres to the south-west — remains the only known locality for the grey ab. *columbina* Image. The only previous record for Hatfield Forest would seem to be that made by Mr Geoffrey Dent in 1945 and reported in *Trans. Bishop's Stortford and district nat. Hist. soc.* 1(1) published in 1950. This is repeated in the Essex Naturalists' Trust's 1975 publication *A guide to the Butterflies and Larger Moths of Essex* as being made in 1949. Elsewhere in Essex, Epping Forest remains the stronghold of this species where, at least in my experience, ab. *columbina* outnumbers the typical form by about two to one. The only other known colony of this small insect in the county is at an Essex Naturalists' Trust woodland reserve near Bradwell-on-Sea, though there have been sightings of individuals at Saffron Walden, Layer-de-la-Haye and St Osyth and there are pre-1960 records from Colchester, Benfleet and Hadleigh. I have no records at all for the adjacent areas of northern Hertfordshire, and the species is absent from Foster's 1937 *A list of the Lepidoptera of Hertfordshire* (*Trans. Herts. nat. Hist. soc. Fld. Club* 20(4): 157-279.)

As a concluding comment it may be more than coincidence that I captured the Wall Wood moths at around 2300 hours British summertime, which is almost exactly the same time that I have always captured the same species on my various trips to Epping Forest. I am grateful to Mr L. Sisitka, the National Trust's Head Ranger for Hatfield Forest for permission to record insects in that area. COLIN W. PLANT, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, Stratford, London E15 4LY.